

PONCA TRIBE OF INDIANS, OKLAHOMA.

JANUARY 26, 1921.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 804.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill S. 804, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass with an amendment as follows: Page 1, line 6, after the word "States," insert the words "or against the Omaha Tribe of Indians, or of any judgment obtained by said Omaha Tribe of Indians against the United States."

This measure seeks to give the Ponca Indians the opportunity of presenting their claims before the Court of Claims. It is believed that these Indians have sufficient basis for their claims against the United States Government that they should have this opportunity.

The following letter indicates the position of the Department of the Interior upon the measure:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 25, 1921.

MY DEAR MR. SNYDER: As advised by the Indian Bureau, the Ponca Tribe of Indians in Oklahoma and Nebraska very much fear that they will not have an opportunity to present their claims against the Omaha Tribe, which, on June 28, 1920, obtained a judgment against the Government (Court of Claims, Doc. No. 31002), and therefore earnestly request that they be authorized to take their claims against the Government and the said Omaha Tribe to the Court of Claims to the end that they may have the same heard, and may obtain the amount alleged to be due them.

Under date of May 24, 1920, the Senate passed the bill (S. 804) authorizing the Ponca Tribe to submit its claim against the Government, which then included the Omaha matter, to the Court of Claims. Thereafter a decree was entered by the said court awarding the Omaha Tribe the sum of \$117,735.31.

The record shows that the said Senate bill, which was passed as indicated, has been referred to your committee for its consideration and action.

In view of the urgent request of the Ponca Tribe and the apparent merits in their said claims, I am strongly of the opinion that they should be allowed to take their claims to the Court of Claims.

I think the bill as passed by the Senate should be slightly amended so as to allow the Poncas to have their claim against the Omaha Tribe for a share in said judgment, heard by the court.

It is therefore suggested that the bill be amended, adding after the word "States" in line 6, page 1, thereof, the words "or against the Omaha Tribe of Indians, or in any judgment obtained by said Omaha Tribe against the United States."

It is recommended that the said bill, which should be amended as indicated, receive your early and favorable consideration.

Cordially, yours,

JOHN BARTON PAYNE,
Secretary.

Hon. HOMER P. SNYDER,
*Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs,
House of Representatives.*

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